

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 4739

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, XR, US

SUBJECT: WIRE SERVICE ITEM ON ABORTED SOUTHERN CONE MEETING

1. SANTIAGO'S JUNE 8 MORNING PAPERS CARRIED VARIOUS VERSIONS OF AN AP STORY DATEDILED BUENOS AIRES REPORTING ON THE CANCELED SOUTHERN CONE SUMMIT MEETING. THE AP STORY CONTAINED ACCURATE DETAILS INCLUDING THE INITIAL EFFORTS TO ARRANGE THE SUMMIT IN ASUNCION AND A SUBSEQUENT DECISION TO SETTLE FOR A SOUTHERN CONE MINI CAUCUS AT THE OASGA IN GRENADA.

2. THE LONGEST VERSION OF THE AP STORY WAS PUBLISHED IN "LA TERCERA". UNDER AN AMPLE HEADLINE READING..."U.S. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY CHILE PICKED FOR NEW U.S. PRESSURES" THE STORY CLAIMS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING MAKING CHILE AN OBJECT LESSON SO THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE WILL UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE U.S.' HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. "WIDESPREAD RUMORS IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES" ARE CITED AS THE BASIS FOR THIS CLAIM AND THE VISITS OF EX-PRESIDENT FREI TO VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE AND ALLENDE'S FOREIGN MINISTER ALMEYDA TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS CONFIRMING EVIDENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE JUXTAPOSITION IN THE SAME STORY OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE ABORTED SOUTHERN CONE SUMMIT AND THE ALLEGATION CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT CHILE WILL BE MADE AN OBJECT LESSON LENDS CREDIBILITY TO THE LATTER. OBVIOUSLY, THE AP PIECE WILL BE VERY POORLY RECEIVED HERE -- PARTICULARLY ON THE HEELS OF THE FREI AND ALMEYDA VISITS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO RESPOND TO QUERIES REGARDING THE ACCURACY OF THE U.S./CHILEAN ASPECTS OF THE STORY.

BOYATT

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